

**Commission on Technology
Minutes**

September 6, 2001
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 199
Arizona State Courts Building
1501 Washington, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louraine Arkfeld
Kent Batty
Mike Baumstark
Julie Carlson
Robert Dorfman
Diane Drain
Gordon Griller
Joseph Howard
Michael Jeanes
Gary Krcmarik
Martin Krizay
Ruth McGregor
Gary Pope
Edward Voss

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Henry M. Alvarez
Kenneth Harris
John Kennedy
Clark Munger

AOC STAFF:

Maureen Haggerty
David Harrower
Karl Heckart
Janet Scheiderer

GUESTS:

Mohyeddin Abdulaziz, Court of Appeals
John Barrett, Maricopa Superior Court
Tom Brady, Tempe Municipal Court
John Coward, Pinal County Superior Court
Mark Jensen, Maricopa County Clerks Office
John King, Gartner
Gordon Mulleneaux, Maricopa Superior Court
Gregg Obuch, Pima Superior Court
Will Tagart, Maricopa County Clerks Office
Michael Pollard, Tucson Municipal Court
Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Maricopa Superior Court

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Justice Ruth McGregor called the meeting of the Commission on Technology to order on September 6, 2001 at 9:30 am. Justice McGregor welcomed staff and guests, and three new Commission members to the committee.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the May 5, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-66.

Justice McGregor provided an update on the COT's Jury Automation Subcommittee. The court has created a general jury reform committee and the COT's subcommittee will work with them. It is being coordinated by staff in the Court Services Division and will encompass a broader perspective than just automation. Their report, scheduled for fall, will therefore be delayed.

ELECTRONIC FILING PILOT: REQUEST FOR COT APPROVAL

Mohyeddin Abdulaziz from Court of Appeals, Division 2, demonstrated their electronic filing project (e-filer) and answered questions about its implementation. Members discussed their success measures, making some suggestions, their marketing plan, and their audience (licensed attorneys). The Court of Appeals requested approval from the COT for a pilot implementation. The web address for the efilng project is <https://www.apltwo.ct.state.az.us/e-filer>.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to allow the electronic filing project to proceed. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-67.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded that the Court of Appeals report back to the COT within one year on their user responses, volumes, planned enhancements, lessons learned and changes needed. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-68.

JCEF/TCPF FUNDING - CURRENT OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

COT members discussed current funding commitments. Karl Heckart presented two revenue and expense spreadsheets which were included in the meeting materials. One spreadsheet detailed currently approved and funded automation project expenses at a basic operational level; the other projected costs for all the planned strategic projects statewide. These spreadsheets also reflected a downturn in revenue. Annual revenue growth has slowed to 1% from a previous 6-8%. For both automation scenarios, revenue shortfalls were expected in future years. Karl Heckart noted that trimming the base operational budgets even farther would include reducing consultant usage by hiring internal staff, eliminating infrastructure and hardware upgrades, changing database management systems, and delaying Maricopa Superior Court's move to AZTEC. These strategies, as well as revenue enhancements, were to be the major topics of the remainder of the meeting.

SUPERIOR COURT IN MARICOPA COUNTY ICIS PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Michael Jeanes, John Barrett, and Marcus Reinkensmeyer presented the Maricopa Superior Court's ICIS project for review and approval as an alternate strategy to implementing AZTEC in the short-term. Maricopa Superior Court was not asking for funding but for approval to move forward with this new IT plan. Adopting ICIS would replace the existing mainframe and result in considerable maintenance and upgrade savings. This savings will support the ICIS project. John explained that moving to newer technologies would make their case information more accessible. Another possible advantage was ICIS would allow the current municipal court automation project (MCAP) to focus on existing users' needs and move Maricopa requirements and related expenses to later years.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to support the Maricopa County Superior Court's ICIS project. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-69.

JCEF/TCPF FUNDING - PROPOSED FUTURE PROJECTS

The members reviewed cost estimates for proposed future projects that reflected strategic directions approved in the IT Strategic Plan. They agreed upon the goal of seeking future sources of funds to accomplish the IT strategic project goals. Statewide strategic project goals included:

DV Phase II:	The Domestic Violence project, which will be available to begin data collection in ACAP courts by December 2001, needs to be extended to non-ACAP courts.
IA Repository:	The Initial Appearance Repository project would bring the right information to judges at the initial appearance.
Justice Integration:	Rural courts need assistance to develop integration with their local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.
On-line Citation	A state contract for electronic payments over the internet was awarded to IBM. Courts wish to participate in e-government and will be looking at models for providing online citation payment statewide.
Web Portal	This would create a uniform and common access to AZ courts to be used in public access applications.
Collections	There is a substantial outstanding receivables balance and developing business processes and automated tools to support enhanced collections would increase revenue.
New Jury System	A new jury system is being implemented in Maricopa county. It, or an upgrade to the existing system in all other counties, is needed to improve jury processing statewide.
EDMS	Electronic document management systems are a high priority and needed statewide. A pilot is in progress in Maricopa Superior Court.
DUI Repository	This project would provide a statewide view of DUI defendants for judges and law enforcement. It would be a significant contribution to public safety.

Equipment Replacement A steady budget is needed for hardware and server upgrades.

For all new project an additional 3.8 to 7.8 million dollars would be needed annually. With the move to electronic government, another statewide concern will be electronic signatures and electronic authentication, but requirements and costs are not yet defined.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

David Sands presented proposed legislation and asked the commission for review and comment. The proposed mental health gun check would provide for courts providing notice of mental health commitments to law enforcement. Many questions regarding business processes, funding sources and impacts were raised. If passed, this legislation may require automation and funding was not addressed.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to table any review of the Mental Health Gun Check Legislation until the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-70.

FUNDING ENHANCEMENT OPTIONS

Janet Scheiderer, Court Services Director, spoke to the Commission on possible funding sources. Some of the items discussed were enhanced collections, increasing fees, charging interest and raising ACAP fees. It was also suggested that the AOC encourage courts to assess a local automation fee.

JCEF/TCPF FUNDING AND PROJECT DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Members discussed strategies for increasing revenues, reducing expenses and achieving the strategic information technology goals. Justice McGregor cautioned all on cutting on-going statewide projects to which the COT had made a commitment. Members requested that Karl analyze the impact of changing database management systems and acquiring a statewide enterprise license. Members would also like to understand better how projects fit together and are related to or dependant upon one another. They asked that this be addressed at the next meeting.

Members discussed what funding actions the COT might take and whether immediate action on current activities was necessary. They determined that the court should proceed with its commitments to automation projects while pursuing alternative funding sources and approaches.

By consensus, after discussing both the revenue projections, desired future strategic projects, and ideas for generating additional revenue, COT members agreed to the following:

1. Ongoing projects listed in the “COT Operational Programs” and “COT Commitments” sections of the spreadsheet should proceed while taking reasonable measures to reduce expenses.
2. The following fund dispositions were to be made related to the “COT Contingent

Commitments” section in the attached spreadsheet:

- a. Justice Integration Pilot funds of \$150,000.00 are released for spending.
 - b. Municipal Court Development funds were moved to fiscal year 2003 where they remain a contingent commitment.
 - c. Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court - EDMS funds of \$400,000.00 are released.
 - d. Maricopa County Clerk of Superior Court - RFR funds remain pending as contingent items had not yet been met.
3. No projects listed in the “Pending Automation Projects” section are funded at this time. Future year funding will be determined at a later date.
 4. No grant requests listed in the “County Projects - COT approval” section were granted. These remain pending until an improved revenue availability might allow COT to consider the requests.

Members discussed the scheduling of its strategic planning meeting on February 28 through March 1, 2002. A review of funding and strategic projects and directions is planned for that meeting. Should legislative action regarding new revenue sources be unresolved at that time, the meeting may be delayed. Justice McGregor ask that members submit ideas for the planning meeting.

ARIZONA JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL: NAVAJO, YUMA AND STATEWIDE IT PLANS

Karl gave a brief presentation on the strategic plans submitted by Navajo and Yuma courts, noting that both were aligned to the statewide initiatives. He also reviewed the Arizona Judicial Department IT Plan, to which a new executive summary had been added since their May review.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approved Navajo County Courts IT Strategic Plan with no concerns. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-71.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approved Yuma County Courts IT Strategic Plan with no concerns. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-72.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to approved Arizona Judicial Department IT Strategic Plan with no concerns. The motion passed unanimously. TECH-01-73.

ANNUAL REPORT OF COT PROJECTS AND GRANTS

Karl provided the COT with an annual report of projects. He reviewed a list of county projects

funded with state or local JCEF/TCPF and a list of statewide projects. Each included a brief description of the project, the FY01 budget and expenditure, and the accomplishments. Overall, actual JCEF/TCPF statewide automation project expenditures for FY 2001 was \$7.2 million; approved Local and State JCEF/TCPF automation grant requests for FY01 totaled \$1.9 million.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no respondents.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2001 from 9:30-3:30 at the Arizona State Courts Building, Conference Room 119.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.